

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 DODE-00 RSC-01 MC-02 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 /039 R

DRAFTED BY OASD/ISA:COL SKOGERBOE:PCS

APPROVED BY AF/N-MR. BLAKE

PM/MAS-MR. SMITH

ISA/PP-COL LEIDER

AF/R:MR. NAVEZ

NAVY-CAPT GIOVENITTI

J-5-CAPT CONNELLEY

DSAA-CAPT CANTACUZENE

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R 281834Z SEP 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TUNIS

INFO USCINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

COMSIXTHFLT

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E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: MASS TS

SUBJECT: PATROL CRAFT FOR THE TUNISIAN NAVY

EMBASSY ALSO FOR CHUSLOT

1. TUNISIAN AMBASSADOR EL GOULLI CALLED ON ASSISTANT
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (ISA), ROBERT C. HILL, ON SEPT. 5,
1973. DURING CONVERSATION, EL GOULLI EXPRESSED URGENT
NEED FOR SMALL PATROL CRAFT TO PATROL COASTLINE, WATCH
LIBYANS AND PROTECT FISHING AND OFF-SHORE DRILLING
OPERATIONS. EL GOULLI TALKED IN TERMS OF 6-8 PATROL BOATS,
BUT INDICATED SWIFT BOATS MIGHT BE ACCEPTABLE. EL GOULLI
IS AWARE THAT A-4 PURCHASE IS DEPENDENT ON AMOUNT OF FMS
CREDIT AVAILABLE IN FY 74 AND FY 75 AND THAT DIFFICULTIES
IN OBTAINING AUTHORIZATION FROM CONGRESS FOR FOREIGN
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MILITARY ASSISTANCE MAKE IT EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO MAKE

COMMITMENTS ON SECURITY ASSISTANCE. AMBASSADOR WAS ALSO ADVISED THAT US DID NOT HAVE EXCESS PATROL BOATS, BUT THAT TUNISIAN REQUEST WOULD BE CAREFULLY REVIEWED.
FYI: NEW PATROL BOATS (PG) ESTIMATED COST AT DOLLARS 6 TO 8 MILLION EACH. END FYI.

2. IT NOW APPEARS THAT TWO SWIFT BOATS COULD POSSIBLY BE MADE AVAILABLE TO TUNISIAN NAVY ON SALES BASIS FOR DOLLARS 300 THOUSAND EACH. SUPPORT FOR TWO YEARS WOULD RUN COSTS HIGHER. CHARACTERISTICS OF SWIFT BOATS ARE

DISPLACEMENT - 22.5 TONS
DIMENSIONS - 50X13X3.5 FT.
ENGINE - TWO GEARED GM DIESELS
ARMAMENT - 1/81 MM MORTAR AND 2/50 CAL
CREW - 1 OFFICER, 6 ENLISTED

REQUEST YOU DETERMINE GOT INTEREST IN POSSIBLE PURCHASE OF TWO SWIFT BOATS.

3. AMBASSADOR EL GOULLI HAS BEEN INFORMED OF US INTENTIONS TO MAKE THE ABOVE OFFER THROUGH CHUSLOT. KISSINGER

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